



Infant Deaths in Unsafe Sleep Environments, 2007-2016, Monroe County

Unsafe sleep environments put infants at increased risk of injury and death. Co-sleeping (with an adult or sibling), sleeping in a space *other than* a crib or bassinet and sleeping in a crib or bassinet with soft bedding, bumpers, pillows and toys are considered unsafe sleep environments.

The Child Fatality Review team reviewed all infant deaths in which an unsafe sleep environment was identified for 2007-2016. Based on these reviews, it was determined that there were three different scenarios that occur related to unsafe sleep.

1. Infants who die under circumstances of unsafe sleep and the cause of death was determined to be positional asphyxia
2. Infants who die under circumstances of unsafe sleep and the cause of death is undetermined
3. Infants who die under circumstances of unsafe sleep, and there is a determination of the cause of death (medical cause), but it is unclear if the unsafe sleep environment made the medical cause worse and resulted in the death.

During this time period, there were 87 deaths that occurred in unsafe sleep environments. The number of deaths per year ranged from one to thirteen.

Deaths in unsafe sleep environments comprised¹:

- 15% of all infant deaths
- 1% of all infant deaths that occurred during the first 27 days of life (often called the neonatal period)
- 47% of all infant deaths that occurred between 28-364 days of life (often called the post neonatal period)

Of infants who died in unsafe sleep environments:

- 93% were age 1 month or older (28 days-364 days)
- 56% were African American and 17% were Latino
- 90% resided in the City of Rochester

Of the deaths that occurred in unsafe sleep environments:

- 56% of the infants were co-sleeping
- 29% of the infants were sleeping somewhere other than a crib or bassinet (but not co-sleeping)
- 15% of the infants were sleeping in a crib or bassinet and there was soft bedding
- 20% of the homes did not have a crib, portable crib or bassinet*

**Data from 2011-2016.*

¹ Based on vital records files, NYSDOH 2007-2016, analyzed by Monroe County Department of Public Health